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The Playground

The World at Play



Cass County, Indiana, Boys' Hike

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The Playground

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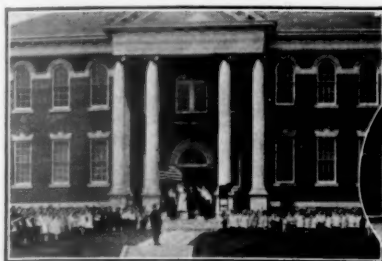
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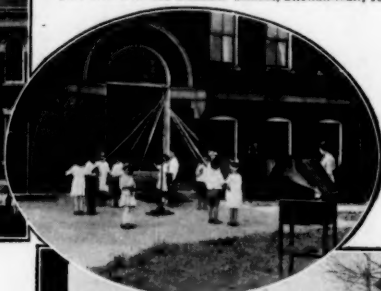
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THE NOON-DAY LINE-UP

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National Conference of Charities and Corrections.

—The Conference will open in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 6, 1917. Problems of community life will be the chief interest of the program. Thirty-five hundred delegates are expected. Full information may be secured from the General Secretary, William T. Cross, 315 Plymouth Court, Chicago, Illinois.

Does America Want Military Training for Schoolboys?

The Peace Committee of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends has secured the views of eighty men, prominent in various phases of American life to answer this question. The answer is a *no*, almost unanimous—not *military* training in schools, but *physical training* to conserve strength for the nation.

City at Large Should Pay for Playgrounds.—A suggestion to provide playgrounds by assessing fifty percent on surrounding land and fifty percent on the borough, is assailed by E. M. Bassett. Mr. Bassett urges that increased value of land used for business should be used for playgrounds just as it is for schools and for the people who have created these values, though they may live in another borough.

Old Newspapers for Play.—The children of Brattleboro,

Vermont, have collected newspapers and magazines to sell—enough to provide three play leaders and some equipment. Last year only one leader was employed.

Donates Playground to Braintree.—N. Eugene Hollis has presented a twenty-one acre field, valued at \$4000, to Braintree, Massachusetts. The donor has already spent \$2500 in improvements of the land, which is high ground sloping off to a river at a place which can be flooded for a skating rink.

Mr. Hollis has previously presented a school lot to the town and made a liberal contribution toward the purchase of ground for another playground.

Utica Playgrounds Lose a Friend.—Through the death of Rev. Dana W. Bigelow, D. D., every movement for community betterment in Utica lost a friend and zealous worker. Particularly the playground and recreation movement will miss him, for, for over sixteen years he stood as the pioneer president of the playgrounds committee, serving loyally in the ranks after the committee became the Association. He had rarely missed a meeting and was conversant with every detail of the work. He himself took the responsibility for winter care of apparatus, for years. He it was who promoted interest in the

history of the region through many lectures and expeditions and at last in assisting in arranging a historical pageant.

Campaign in Williams-town.—As a result of a ten-day campaign under the leadership of Professor Howe, of Williams' College, Williamstown, Massachusetts, the membership in the Williamstown Playground Association was increased to 462 and more than \$800 was added to the recreation fund. An additional two hundred dollars was spent by one member in remodelling a hall for a gymnasium.

A mass meeting at Williams' Inn, at which one of the most powerful politicians came out vigorously for the movement, was followed by a minstrel show a few days later, in which the newly organized community orchestra appeared.

Measuring up to Sister Cities.—Newport, Rhode Island, recreation workers while surveying conditions in Newport, also obtained similar statistics from fourteen other cities of approximately the same size. While Newport compared favorably with the others, yet a great need for active outdoor recreation was indicated by the report.

Making Rainy Days Count.—Upon five rainy days, when Oakland, California, play-

grounds had to be closed, Walter Christie, track coach of the University of California, spoke to the men of the department upon the technique of track work.

That Easy Job of Play Leader.—Urging more systematic organization of playground work, the *Reading Herald* says:

"It is an axiom that the most important part of a playground system is its instructors. Apparatus counts for very little if there is not the right sort of man or woman there to make the apparatus go. A perfectly barren and empty field may be made the most successful playground in the countryside if a capable man or a tactful woman is put in charge of it.

"But the capable man and the tactful woman must be stationary if there are to be results. The playground season is brief at best. The usefulness of the instructors is cumulative. They must be much more efficient in late August than in early July, for they will have learned to know the children well by that time. They will understand their peculiarities. They will note their idiosyncrasies. The instructors will have learned something new every day. And while they may have entered the playground as a stranger on the fifth of July, they should leave it on Labor

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Day as the ardent friend, the genuine sympathizer, the successful uplifter of a little regiment of children whom they know, not as 'that freckle-faced boy with a squint' and 'that snub-nosed girl with the blue hair ribbon,' but as Susie and Katie and Clarence and Mike."

A Coroner Advocating Playgrounds.—Peter M. Hoffman, Coroner of Cook County, Illinois, advocating an appropriation to keep Chicago's school playgrounds open, declares closed playgrounds would double the number of deaths by street accidents.

Problem Grows More Acute.—*Life* comments upon the increasing danger to children in crowded streets and sees in playgrounds the necessary means of defense:

"Certainly nobody would have the audacity to suggest adding to our already overburdened curriculum a class in training infants to dodge automobiles. Merely as an adequate means of national defense for the future, we shall soon be compelled to tear down many of our city buildings to provide space for playgrounds."

Money Value of Parks and Boulevards.—In the beginning I did not feel we could afford to set aside a large amount of land for parks and boulevards; now we are paying enormous prices

for the privilege of affording our customers these parks.—J. C. Nichols in American Civic Association Series II No. 5 (November, 1912)

Harks Back to the Revolution.—General Gage's spirit must have hovered near the street commissioners of Boston upon a recent occasion, when, for the second time in the city's history, boys and girls appeared before municipal authorities to plead their right to coast on Roxbury streets and again the right to the pursuit of happiness was vindicated.

Correspondence Course in Recreation.—The University of California announces a correspondence course in the organization and management of playgrounds, given by Mr. Nash, under the general supervision of Associate Professor Kleeberger of the Department of Physical Training.

Recreation Applied to Country Life Problems.—Such is the title of a four weeks' summer course given by the Massachusetts Agricultural College and the Northeastern Field Committee of the Young Women's Christian Association, at Amherst, Massachusetts, July 2 to 31. The course on *Organised Play and Recreation* will be given by Agnes Burns Ferguson—now Dr. Ferguson—of Pittsburgh, whose growing in-

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sight into the meaning of play for the family and the community has been the inspiration of many play leaders.

Work - Study - Play.—The Brooklyn *Eagle* sees the point when it declares the "work-study-play" school worthy of intelligent interest and support as the "first serious effort for a coordinated all-round development of the great mass of future citizens, such as the 'country day schools' seek to give their selected pupils."

Inaugural Declares for Open Schoolhouses.—Mayor Charles S. Ashley, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, taking the oath of office for the eighteenth time, advocated throwing open the schoolhouses when they were wanted.

Coyotes for the Treasury.—A novel way of earning money for a playground in Custer County, Nebraska, was by a coyote "round up." The pelts were sold and the money turned into the treasury.

Rally Days for Advertising.—A series of "rally days" were given in the various playground districts of Oakland, California, at which an attractive program was presented and neighbors who knew told those who didn't know what the playgrounds had to offer them and their children.

A Proper Study for Par-

ents.—A call sent out for a parent-teachers' association in Des Moines reads as follows:

"The next regular meeting of the Parent-Teachers' Association of the North High School will be held in the North High School auditorium next Monday evening at eight o'clock. Mr. L. H. Weir, Field Secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, who is in Des Moines for an extended study of our recreational needs and opportunities, will be present and talk on *A Community's Recreation*.

"The following resolution formulated by the Executive Board will be presented at this meeting:

'Recognizing the urgent need for concerted action on the part of parents in the social life of our sons and daughters, we, the parents and patrons of the North High School, do resolve—

'That we encourage the organization of social interests within the school, pledging ourselves to lend our aid in every way to the support of such clubs:

'That we unite in opposing expensive social affairs, late hours, and interference with school work in both school and neighborhood gatherings, believing such affairs should be confined to Friday and Saturday evenings and to seasonable hours;

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'That we refuse to allow our sons and daughters membership in any club or society in which the spirit and letter of the anti-fraternity law is violated;

'To the support of the above, in the interest of better life in the home, the school, and the community, we pledge our individual and collective action.' "

Community Festival Course.—Cedar Springs, Michigan, successfully conducted a lyceum combining "home talent" and motion pictures. Ten programs were given—two by the dramatic club of the school-community center, two by the orchestra, two by the choral club, one lecture and *Quo Vadis* and *Last Days of Pompeii* in moving pictures. The last program was a May festival put on by all the clubs working together. Course tickets sold at one dollar and a half.

"Community Day."—A musical program, an Edison concert, a parlor field meet and gymnastic drills made up the program of the "community day" held by the Roxbury, New York, Young Men's Christian Association. A Harvester drill by boys in overalls using turnips for dumbbells was popular. A "community sing" closed the day.

Bennington's Hallowe'en.—Miss Agnes Whipple sends the following account of Bennington's Hallowe'en:

"For several years the community celebrations in our village have been conducted under the management of The Public Welfare Association—or The Civic League, as the organization was called in its earlier years—and always these celebrations have been a success. But the palm was awarded the 1916 observance of Hallowe'en, as to size, the enthusiastic support given by the public and the amount of enjoyment apparent on all sides.

"Heretofore in our Hallowe'en parades each group has masqued and costumed according to its own ideas. But this time the parade was centered upon the idea of representing Mother Goose characters, and the result was far more interesting and attractive. There were thirty-five floats in line, all splendidly arranged and decorated, and many had particular aptness; for instance, one of our leading clothiers named Cole arranged his float to represent *Old King Cole and His Fiddlers Three*; and a plumbing firm very cleverly showed one depicting *Rub-a-dub-dub, Three Men in a Tub*.

"The parade was headed by the Chairman of the Festival Committee, dressed as Uncle Sam, and there were over six hundred in line. After the parade, the band played for a time in the principal square, one section of which was cleared and swept

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for dancing. This part of the program opened with a snake dance, under the direction of Physical Director Mann. General dancing followed. The crowd on the streets was immense and the square so packed that one could hardly struggle through. There were various estimates of the number of people thronging the streets as spectators, and while it was impossible to get a very accurate estimate, everyone agreed that pretty nearly the entire population was present, enjoying themselves hugely.

"The most gratifying feature of the entire affair to the Welfare Association was the spirit of co-operation shown by the merchants and different organizations taking part. Several merchants were so pleased with the outcome of their efforts that they announced their intention of participating even more largely another year, and others who were not represented expressed their determination to take part next time. The absence of any hint of rowdiness was particularly noticeable, good-natured fun and jollity prevailing everywhere. Many of us have visions of a time when our young people will have forgotten that Hallowe'en ever meant rough practices and rowdiness."

Happy Evenings.—Katherine F. Smith, conducting the

first summer playground at Bath, Pennsylvania, found the long summer evenings the time to make the playground count for the community:

"After supper the parents would come up and watch the children play and dance.

"The older boys and girls, who were not provided for in the equipment of the grounds, enjoyed seeing the youngsters do their folk dancing so well that they were eager to learn. So a social dancing class was formed in connection with the playground, and three evenings a week in a hall hired for the purpose I instructed these young people in modern dancing. I might add that a goodly number of 'real grown-ups' participated.

"The last night was a beautiful moonlight one—almost as bright as day. We had a grand finale. Almost everyone in town was there. The children danced and the older boys and girls danced—the dancing class giving the crowd an extra treat by appearing in costume—giving a grand march and winding the May pole, to the great delight of everyone present. The hall in which the masquerade was held was so small that visitors and friends had to be excluded, only the local editor and three or four matrons being present."

A Neighborhood Associa-

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tion That Does Things.—

The report of the Matinecock Neighborhood Association for the year 1916 shows many recreational features. These features center about the neighborhood house which was built in 1914 through the cooperation of 110 families. The building is worth \$31,000 and contains an auditorium, social room, bowling alleys, pool table, lavatories, motion picture booth and room for the village fire department. The attendance at the house during the past year was more than 800 a week, and the income for the year was \$4,039. A dancing class, whose enrollment of a hundred made it necessary to meet in three divisions instead of one as planned, was one of the new developments during 1916. The class was conducted by volunteers and met once a week all winter and once a month during the summer. Each member of the class paid fifteen cents a lesson, the proceeds going to the house. Then there were motion pictures twice a week, lectures, and many church socials held in the auditorium. There was a choral club reorganized during the year and this has now a membership of thirty-five members. The meetings are well attended and when the club gave an open rehearsal the audience was large and enthusiastic. The house is said

to be in use for some recreational purpose every night in the week, and has brought to the community much that it could not otherwise have had.

A library containing 3500 volumes is conducted as well as class-room libraries at various schools. School gardens, a public bathing beach, skating and winter sports have also been enjoyed as a result of the efforts of the Neighborhood Association.

At a "Bob-sled Carnival" held in February, nine villages competed for the Association's trophies and for sweepstake prizes. The "Matinecock," the new bob owned by the women of the Matinecock Neighborhood Association, took third prize as it did a few days later at the Huntington Carnival.

Making Room for Neighborliness.—In a neighborhood center ought there to be an opportunity for "private" or "exclusive" groups from neighborhoods to meet? Whether you turn to city or country at the present time you have a large part of most neighborhoods unorganized. If all the people of a neighborhood were already members of a neighborhood group there would be much less need of the neighborhood centers. The individuals who are not sharing in a community life have however

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an unconscious desire to be part of the neighborhood. A center which is largely a place for private or exclusive groups already formed, which does not help to organize the great unorganized part of the neighborhood, falls short of the true ideal of neighborliness. It is because so many families have no neighborhood relationship that there is such need of a neighborhood center.

A neighborhood center, like the church, can be organized to death. We do not want always to travel with just the same group. So far as we do this we narrow ourselves and become less useful citizens, less efficient neighbors. We want to try out new groups and new combinations and through the influence of new friends make new discoveries as to latent possibilities within ourselves.

Much of our modern leisure time life is carried on through groups but these groups are ever-changing and the mortality of private associations is great—for which we have many times reason to be grateful. If social life, neighborliness, is organized too much it is killed and only the ugly corpse remains. Neighborliness, play, is a spirit not to be too closely measured with a ruler, chained with formal plans, or with too elaborate tables of statistics. The greatest

need is for big men with big souls who will make neighborliness attractive.

Somebody to Talk to.—

"I want somebody to talk to and there isn't anyone I know well enough."

The neighborhood center helps many a stranger to find the comradeship he longs for.

Music Brings Cheer.—"Buffalo will need its community chorus in war time. Every city in America will need one. There isn't anything like song to cheer the heart in times of turmoil, or to keep the mind from dwelling on misfortune." So Harry Barnhart prefaced the singing of *America* by the Buffalo community chorus, 300 strong, in the high school building, though a blizzard raged and some of the singers had walked miles in the storm.

State Moving Picture Films.

—Governor T. W. Beckett, of North Carolina, in his message to the legislature and people of his state, advocates a state appropriation of \$50,000 to further the use of educational motion pictures.

More Gardens for Boys and Girls.

—Commissioner Claxton's plan for using vacant lots and boys' and girls' time for making gardens is echoed in a circular sent to the schools of Ontario, Canada by the Minister of Education. Larger home

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and school gardens, with less space for flowers and more for plants of food value are urged.

Boys' and Girls' Expositions.—A modern method of utilizing the play spirit in work lies in the expositions held in a number of communities for boys and girls. Here are displayed the results of a summer's gardening, handiwork, arts-crafts—all the work of the boys and girls themselves. The third annual event of this kind was held in Burlington, Vermont, in October. Exhibits of vocational and pre-vocational work were made, the most interesting exhibits taking the form of class demonstrations by pupils of schools and other institutions from all over Vermont.

Snow-Man Competition.—The playgrounds of Rochester, New York, held an inter-playground "snow-man competition." Only children under fourteen were allowed to compete. Points were awarded as follows: 30 for height, 30 for appearance and proper proportion, 30 for originality in design, 10 for difficulties overcome, such as accumulation of snow. Metal or wooden supports were permitted but stuffing with old clothes was not encouraged. The same judges visited all the playgrounds before dark, measuring the snow-men and giving 30 points for the tallest, no

points for height for the smallest and points in proportion to height for the others.

Exhibit of School Equipment for Little Children.—

At the Riverside Branch of the New York Public Library, an exhibit was held for the purpose of showing materials which are adapted to free use by children under seven years of age "at the promptings of their own creative impulses." It also showed results accomplished by young children. It included drawing materials, building blocks of all sorts, crayons and paints and many other materials with which a child develops individuality while playing. There were also pictures (if such irregular forms could be called pictures) drawn by children and exhibits of apparatus from different companies. One particularly interesting exhibit was that of some furniture made by children under seven—a doll's bureau, chairs, tables. An exhibit given by the School of Childhood of the University of Pittsburgh showed an ingenious two-story structure of wood which could be placed in a playroom. By means of this, space could be economized as children might play on both stories at the same time. A screen to place between the children in the playroom so that each child's play might be more

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individual, was not universally approved. The exhibit is to go to Boston and later to Teachers' College.

Discs for Dice.—Superintendent of Playgrounds and Recreation, Robert A. Bernhard of Rochester, N. Y., has designed a dial to take the place of dice in the game of parchesi. The advantage of this dial is obvious. It is made by printing all the combinations of numbers it is possible to obtain with two dice, on a paper disc, which is pasted upon a block of wood in the following manner;

Shellac the block with white shellac, sandpaper the top, paste disc on sandpapered surface with library paste, shellac over the surface while the paste is still moist, varnish entire block with spar varnish, these steps are necessary to keep the varnish or shellac from soaking under the paper and staining the disc.

A substantial spinner is made from a brass strip one-fourth inch wide and one-sixteenth inch thick. By sawing V shape, the V makes the point of one spinner and the tail of another with one operation.

Fasten the spinners to the blocks by the use of washers and brass nails.

The paper discs can be purchased in Rochester N. Y., at \$1.50 per hundred or \$5.50

for 500, as they have the type already set up, they probably can make them at a better price.

Swimming to a B. A.—Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va., requires each student receiving a diploma to pass a series of swimming tests, the last one being the carrying of a man of one's own size twenty-five feet in deep water. The gymnasium of the University is as full of workers as any college laboratory.

Permits for Municipal Tennis.—Many cities do not use any permits but open the courts on the principle of "first come, first served."

East Orange, New Jersey, reserves two of its tennis courts each Saturday afternoon and on holidays for adults. No reservations of any courts can be made in advance. Singles are not allowed when others are waiting to play, and no court can be used continuously by the same party for more than forty minutes if others desire to use it. To accommodate business men who wish to play before going to the day's duties, the courts are open for tennis at six a. m. It is not unusual to have all the courts used at this early hour. Players furnish their own racquets and balls.

In order to use the Park Department courts in New York City it is necessary to secure a

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permit. The permit is issued without charge and is given for one season, eight months. A permit is issued for a certain specified park, but not for a certain specified time or a certain court. The holders of the permits must wait at the park until their turn is reached. The courts can be used forty-five minutes and it is necessary for two of the players using the court to have permits. There are both small size single courts and regulation size double courts. No singles can be played on the double courts. The only restriction regarding the use of shoes is that they do not have heels. The players themselves must furnish racquets and balls and in most of the parks their own nets. In Central Park nets are furnished by the City. Generally there are no locker accommodations. Permits are revoked for any violations of the rules.

Volley Ball Popular.—Volley ball is one of the most popular games with the Women's Outdoor Club of the Mosswood Playground, Oakland, California.

Amateur Athletic Federation in Newport.—This organization began in an effort of athletic leaders in Newport, Rhode Island, to offset the tendency to passive play, in which the few took part and the

many looked on, the lack of community consciousness, since most play was provided along racial, class or religious lines, and a rather extreme development of athletic competition for money prizes. All of these undesirable conditions have been influenced by the Federation in its service of little more than a year. Fourteen amateur organizations were federated in the first year, three great meets were held and really remarkable cooperation of those interested in athletic progress was secured.

Athletics in Detroit Public Schools.—Boys and girls under the Detroit public school department of physical education are divided into squads for registering records in various tests. The squad leader takes his squad out of the school room and has each member try the event. Records are handed to the room captain, who mails them to the physical training department. All practicing is done out of school hours. So well-organized is the squad work that in some cases six boys leave a room, register their record and are back in their seats in two and one-half minutes. A school trophy is given to the best physically developed school in each league.

Cards for standard badge tests for each boy indicate number of

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points allowed for each achievement so that any boy can compute his own record.

Securing a Hearing for the Old Story.—Dorothy Wilson writes in *The Storyteller's Magazine* of storytelling in Los Angeles Libraries, where that activity is carried on throughout the whole system. Many of the libraries, especially the newer ones, have rooms for storytelling; in other buildings the story hour is held informally in a corner of the children's room—a plan which has its advantages, as well as disadvantages. "The program consists of one story for the littlest children, a fairy story of general appeal, as *The Tinder Box*, *Aladdin*, or *Murdock's Rath*, and a realistic or cycle story, as *The Leak in the Dike*, or the adventures of Ulysses or Robin Hood. Care is taken always to select stories of literary and dramatic worth with moral soundness existent but not emphasized, and with wholesome humor, which may be boisterous and even crude, but never vulgar. Any new stories with these properties may be used, but most of the modern stories lack the vigor and the artistic quality of the old."

The storytellers at first protested that the children would not listen to old stories retold but they found if they led up to

the stories in the right way the children were always pleased. "If, for instance, the storyteller begins without warning the story of *Sleeping Beauty*, by the time she comes to the wicked fairy's prophecy, her audience then feels no doubt that an old story is being worked off on them and they become disgusted and with their natural frankness say: 'We don't want to hear that' or, 'That's no good; tell another.' That settles the story; ***before starting it, I said, 'I know you have all heard this story but I wonder if you ever heard it the way I am going to tell it?' This remark aroused their curiosity and they decided to give it a trial."

More Land than Boys.—The Morristown School is unique in that it has seventy boys and eighty acres of land about it. Athletic play forms a large part of the course, and the masters play with the boys.

Indispensable in Township Life.—The Rollo Consolidated School, Paw Paw Township, De Kalb County, Illinois has a school yard of twenty-six acres. This includes a park, with shrubs and flowers, a playground, athletic field, and individual gardens. The school also maintains neighborhood orchards and conducts tests for tuberculosis.

An Extra Hour for Play.—

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Since Cleveland has adopted eastern time, more than two thousand people there have been playing baseball daily in the parks, and one thousand others have played tennis every day in the hour that they have gained by rising earlier.

New Hawaiian Park.—A new national park, including three great volcanoes, has been created in Hawaii, the first outside the continental boundaries of the United States.

Athletics in Spain.—Those who have been responsible for launching the movement for athletic games and sports for young people in Spain feel that it is succeeding beyond their expectation. The young Spaniards are very enthusiastic and eager to develop international competitions, when conditions will permit. The football competitions have been well patronized. They are conducted according to the rules of the English Football Association, the leading competition each year being for a cup given by King Alfonso. The second cross-country championship, organized by Espana Sportiva, was a huge success. Eighty-six entered; seventy-seven finished, in spite of rain. In the evening, prizes were presented amid enthusiasm and festivity.

Camp Fire in the Orient.—The Camp Fire Girl Manual

has recently been translated into Italian. Camp Fire circles have been established in the Orient. America has opportunity for a very distinct contribution to progress through the Boy Scouts, the Camp Fire Girls, and the playgrounds.

Colombo, Ceylon, Plays.—A park in the congested district has been opened as a playground with the usual equipment. The first to make use of it were "about fifteen street boys whose clothing consisted mostly of fresh air, playing 'rounder.'"

The course in physical training which the Y. M. C. A. gives at the Government Training College of Ceylon is helping to meet the need for play leaders.

Philippine Inter-Scholastic Meet.—More than 300 Filipino athletes from the southern half of the Islands participated in a four-day meet held at Zamboanga under the auspices of the Board of Education. Basket ball, baseball and tracks athletics were on the program.

Developments in China.—C. M. Goethe, who has done so much to rouse play interest in China sends the following cheering items:

To meet the need of supervisors for the eighty playgrounds to be inaugurated in the Providence of Kiang Su, China, the Young Men's Christian Association has provided a special

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training school for the superintendents and supervisors.

Recognizing the need of trained supervisors, the Government College at Nanking has just instituted a two-year course for playground directors.

The Amoy Chamber of Commerce has financed a contract for an American playground superintendent for three years.

St. John's University at Shanghai has joined the playground movement in the Orient and become a center of radiation of playground work under leadership. The University has opened a playground using students trained in the social betterment courses as leaders.

"Foreign" Women in Japan.—Miss Susan A. Searles, of Kobe College, Kobe, Japan writes of playground progress in Kobe:

"Some of us are talking of municipal playgrounds, but a larger number of the mothers are as yet interested only in a playground for their own children. We have been able to secure the use of Kobe College play-

ground on Saturdays when not used by the students, and are trying the experiment with these 'foreign' children. A committee of three members of the club has general direction and the mothers take turns in supervising. We are hoping that the interest may grow, and that it may be an object lesson for the Japanese who are already interested in the matter, but who do not yet feel able to spend money on apparatus, and who do not appreciate the value of play leadership.

"It may be that later I can pass on the pamphlets you sent me to some of the English-speaking Japanese. The Japanese educational authorities are already doing a good deal in the way of calisthenics and other forms of physical exercises in their schools, and they make a great deal of their annual or semi-annual field day sports.

"One of the primary school principals has recently returned from a trip to America, where, I understand, he was sent to investigate playground conditions."

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BULLETINS SENT OUT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PLAYGROUND AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

To Leaders in Recreation Work in America:

America demands our best now.

There is no group more loyal than the recreation workers.

The Board of Directors of the Playground and Recreation Association of America has passed the following votes:

Voted: That the Association approve the suggestion that in order to make the service of soldiers in military camps more effective, the War Department appoint a recreation commission to make adequate provision for the wise use of leisure time.

That there ought to be on such a commission men who have had experience in recreation activities and in physical training; that the Playground and Recreation Association of America tender to the Secretary of War any help within its power to give.

Voted: That the secretary confer with the Committee on National Defense regarding possible ways in which recreation workers can help in the present national crisis.

Voted: That the secretary prepare a statement regarding the more important recreation workers, showing the special experience which they have had in bringing men into good physical conditions, in training physical directors, in organizing special recreation activities.

Voted: That the Association prepare a special report for local recreation leaders showing how they can help now in the municipal recreation centers in bringing men into good physical condition for possible future military service.

Voted: That the Association help leaders in various states to secure state legislation providing for compulsory physical education in the schools under a plan giving a central state authority some control over appointments.

April 9, 1917

To Recreation Secretaries:

With our country at war with Germany, we want as recreation workers to do all we can to help. Many neighborhood centers will

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open classes for the training of young men who want to get in physical condition to enlist.

Through neighborhood gatherings at the recreation centers, much can be done to keep an enlightened public opinion back of the government.

Many recreation centers already promote vacant lot or home gardening. That the cost of living may be reduced, much more will undoubtedly be attempted in encouraging the planning and proper care of such gardens, not only for economic reasons as a patriotic service, but also as a form of recreation and wholesome outdoor exercise.

Through newspaper articles, the physical training experts of the recreation systems will try to help all men in the country to keep in good physical trim so that the maximum service may be given in industry as well as in the army, in case they should be called upon for service in the future.

Cities located near military camps will undoubtedly try to make their schoolhouse centers and other centers of as great service as possible to the soldiers.

Please send at once any other suggestions, also information as to plans for any form of national service which you are now putting into effect. It is hoped that we can send a number of bulletins to all the recreation systems, embodying the suggestions received from various cities.

If the United States Government organizes a national recreation board, how many men in your recreation systems, or men living in your city who were formerly in your system, who have had recreation training, would be available for service under such a national recreation board?

April 9, 1917

WHAT A RECREATION SYSTEM CAN DO TO HELP NOW

Dr. Thomas A. Storey of the New York Military Training Commission in a conference a few days ago, suggested that recreation secretaries enlist the service of local physicians, the best obtainable, to give medical examinations to young men over nineteen who wish at the recreation centers to train themselves for future military service. Dentists also might be enlisted as few things are more important than the proper care of the teeth. After

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taking the physical examination, men can work under the direction of the recreation leaders in trying to overcome any difficulties found.

Dr. Storey suggests also the possibility of a series of talks on personal hygiene, care of the body, problem of the prevention of disease, through what carriers disease is spread. At the gymnasium of the center a series of posture exercises and exercises affecting the abdominal muscles and the muscles of the leg would be exceedingly valuable. Koehler's *Manual of Physical Training* is the one in use at West Point and Dr. Storey states that it contains excellent suggestions for exercises of various kinds. Great emphasis should be laid on playing such games as hand ball, volley ball, and other games which make the heart beat fast and the blood circulate more freely. It is particularly desirable that men should learn to play games which can be kept up later while they are in military service.

In any effort to prepare for military service, much time should be spent in hiking, tramping, and in cross-country runs which will involve going up and down hill and through woods and entanglements. Such tramps should be taken daily if possible, increasing gradually in length and difficulty. Of course great care must be taken to keep the feet in good condition. Shoes must fit well. Socks with holes should be avoided and clean socks should be put on prior to every march. Care should be taken that any blisters be not broken; they should be protected by a piece of chamois greased with vaseline.

A special committee has been appointed to draw up suggestions which may be of value to recreation secretaries throughout the country.

April 9, 1917

SUGGESTIONS TO THE PLAYGROUND DIRECTORS CONCERNING THE FITTING OF YOUNG MEN FOR MILITARY SERVICE*

I. Hygienic Suggestions

1. Give suggestions concerning the care of the feet. *The*

*Dr. J. H. McCurdy has prepared for us these brief suggestions as to what we can do in fitting young men for military service.

Please send us word as soon as possible as to any such plans you are trying. The Association has asked J. H. McCurdy, William Burdick, A. E. Metzdorf, and E. A. Peterson to serve as a committee to go over the suggestions received and draw up a report which we can all have for use.

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Soldier's Foot and the Military Shoe by Munson, the book officially approved by the War Department, is the best work along this line.

2. Personal hygiene concerning the care of the skin, abrasions and blisters, and the care of the teeth. For the whole topic would recommend directors studying carefully Pyle's *Personal Hygiene*. This book would give in definite form suggestions regarding diet, sleep and exercise.

II. Exercise Suggestions

1. Games. Recommend such games as volley ball, indoor baseball, soccer, and hand ball. Directors should be urged to increase these games, and encourage young men who are likely to enlist to learn the rules of the games as well, so that they may be leaders in them.

2. Definite exercises

1. Arm bending, standing with the feet 15 inches from the wall and with the hands against the wall
2. Arm bending in the front leaning rest position, with the trunk straight
3. Rope climbing, with rope stretched at an angle of 45°
4. Rope climbing, vertical rope 16 ft. in height
5. Knee raising (high) 40-50 times in one minute
6. Walking—five miles in one hour
7. Running—one mile in nine minutes
8. Wall scaling—over a solid wall 6 ft. high, five times in eight minutes
9. Trunk bending, in the standing position
10. Raising the legs from the lying position on the back

These exercises should be pursued with vigor. Classes of a competitive nature might well be organized, care being taken to keep the running and walking distances only at the speed at which the slowest man in the group could cover the distance.

The directors should purchase the *Manual of Physical Training* published by the United States Army in 1914. This book gives many additional exercises and suggestions.

April 12, 1917

To Recreation Secretaries:

Please write as soon as you can whether you consider it wise, during the present war, for recreation systems to concentrate so far as possible upon the following program:—

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1. Bringing and keeping men and women in good physical condition for one hundred per cent service to America at this time
 2. Vacant lot gardening to increase the food supply and at the same time afford wholesome recreation and build up physical vigor
 3. Patriotic meetings to keep all the people united behind the President and the Government
- April 17, 1917

RECREATION LEADERS AT WORK ON WAR PROBLEMS

LETTERS RECEIVED

F. C. BERRY, Supervisor of Recreation Board of Park Commissioners, Minneapolis, Minnesota

We are going right ahead with our plans for the operation of playgrounds and centers and the conduct especially of physical activities.

Many of your suggestions I shall be able to put into practice and will give this matter local publicity and stimulate the promotion of this type of work to my best ability.

* * *

LINCOLN E. ROWLEY, Secretary Board of Recreation Commissioners, East Orange, New Jersey

I have been very much interested in your communications suggesting ways by which playground and recreation workers may be of help to the country at this trying time, and I am prompted by your interest to ask you if you do not think it would be wise for your office to ask all who are in charge of playground and recreation fields to consider the cultivation of a reasonable part of these fields in order that the supply of food may be increased, and because it seems to me that in this way, by a well thought out plan, there is the finest opportunity to teach real patriotism that has ever been our lot.

Supposing, for instance, our board approves a plan which I am formulating to cultivate four out of the nine acres at Elmwood Park, with our general caretaker as superintendent. It would be my idea to form clubs, the members of which would undertake to plant, care for and harvest—say—one hundred hills of potatoes or beans, the seed for a quarter of these to be donated and the proceeds of this quarter to be devoted in the fall to the Red Cross or some other military need which the Recreation Commission approves; the balance to go to the individual for his own family's

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need. In case of one's failing properly to cultivate his part the Commission could continue the cultivation and sell the entire product and devote the proceeds to some cause such as I have mentioned.

In addition to this I think we may have a plot about the size of the average commuter's back yard which we will plant with the different things that grow here in order that the people may see what can be done and how the different things should be cared for. I also have in mind that here we will utilize all the large space which has formerly been used for flowers, for planting tomatoes, cabbages, egg-plant, beans and turnips. I believe that the boys and girls would not only help care for these, but would see that they were not injured during the growing season.

Unless the Engineering Department of our City does so, I think the Recreation Commission will buy three or four plows, a disc-harrow and a cultivator or two, which we will loan to people who have larger tracts which they could cultivate if it were possible to get the grounds prepared in time and without excessive cost. The trouble is in most of these cities there are no tools of this kind which can be brought into use and no individual of course can afford to buy them for use on a small city lot.

* * *

H. F. COOK, Supervisor Board of Recreation Commissioners, Newport, Rhode Island

Because the United States is in a state of war, the demands of the government for service from each and every American—child as well as adult—will be particularly great with a view to the successful termination of the war. The supervisor has considered for some time whether his services would be more important to the country by enlisting in regular military work or by remaining in his present position. For a while, at least, he has thought it best to continue in the recreation work, though if necessity should arise, it would be possible, it seems to him, to have the recreation work so organized that most of it could be done by women.

In no circumstances, however, should the work for children be given up. The countries at war advise strongly against such action. France, Great Britain, and Germany report increased delinquency, even serious crimes committed by children, because of the lack of discipline caused by the war. Therefore, the Children's Bureau in Washington urges greater attention to the health and morals of

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children during the war than formerly. But the recreation work in war time should be somewhat different from that of peace times. Recreation work in war time—for adults as well as children—should be planned with a view to contributing something to the country either in service or efficiency for service. For children, this need not be military training. In fact, it is the opinion of those who are qualified to speak concerning the training of children under fifteen years of age, that it would be unwise to give them any distinctly military training. Of course, marching, wand and gymnastic drills, and other formal activities are promoted in peace as well as war time to teach discipline, precision of movement, and respect for authority.

The activities suggested for the season of 1917 are as follows: gardening, basketry, sewing, swimming, kindergarten work, camping and first aid, marching and drills, and games and athletics. The promotion of vacant lot gardening, aside from aiding the country, offers one of the most wholesome forms of outdoor recreation. The children might also make bandages, mufflers and towels for the soldiers.

For the young men, the recreation program should include cross country runs each week, physical and medical examinations, athletic contests and physical training fitting young men for future military training.

* * *

P. O. OSTERHUS, Supervisor the Playground Association, Williamstown, Massachusetts

As soon as the new international relation with Germany was officially stated by our Government, I at once conferred with the officials as to our opportunities for service. The men of the town were called together by the leading citizens and a committee on Food Production and Conservation was formed. The object was to raise crops and the thought of the children's doing something would be a side issue. As we have considerable land available we shall no doubt be able to do a certain amount in addition to what other agencies as the schools and The Goodwill Club, active now, have already planned.

Under the college, military training is carried on both of students and also a certain number of the town boys. The Boy Scouts under the direction of college boys have been given special training of late looking toward preparedness.

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Classes of instruction in first aid and Red Cross work are in the process of formation under various agencies, chiefly under that of the college. The Association began this work some time ago in the high school.

Various clubs as poultry clubs and corn clubs are contemplated. Work of this sort is under consideration for the country districts.

* * *

WILLIAM A. STECHER, Director of Physical Education, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

To the Teachers of Physical Training in the High Schools:

There is no telling what the near future will demand of our boys in the way of military preparedness. To do our duty as teachers of physical education, I would suggest that at this time special stress be laid upon such exercises as will, in the shortest time, increase the vigor and the endurance of our older boys.

1. The marching tactics of the soldier, the squad, and the company as laid down in the course of study in physical education should alternate with the more vigorous body building exercises. At times the whole school arranged in platoons and companies should take part in marching tactics.

2. The following types of exercises, being of most value as pre-military instruction suited to growing boys, should be emphasized:

- a. Marching in fast time (in column formation)
- b. Running and marching in fast time, in alternation
- c. Endurance running, from 4 minutes, gradually increasing the time to 20 minutes
- d. Fast running; relay racing
- e. Jumping and hurdling
- f. Vaulting over beams, fences and other obstacles
- g. Climbing; wall scaling; carrying comrades; pyramid building
- h. Extended tramping from 2 to 8 hours a day, where there is an opportunity

3. In all forms of athletics, please have the schedules so arranged that the weaker boys shall have the first chance to participate.

* * *

ARTHUR R. MORRISON, Commissioner of Recreation, Winnipeg, Canada

I beg to congratulate you most heartily on the circular just

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received dealing with the work that can be done by recreation workers in connection with the betterment of the conditions of the men in uniform.

In Canada, in all military camps, this has been the policy and I have been privileged to assist the military authorities here in arranging entertainments and games for the benefit of the men. I am indeed proud at this stage of the fact that you are at last with us in this war for freedom.

April 23, 1917

* * *

A. J. SHARADIN, Director Physical Education, Altoona, Pennsylvania

Since the break of relations with Germany, the plans for physical work in the city schools have been completely re-arranged, conforming more to the military lines. Too many young men are rejected by the recruiting officers when the physical test is made.

The vacant lot gardening project is to be launched here on an extensive scale this year, working hand in hand with the playground movement. An expert gardener has been secured from Pennsylvania State College to supervise the garden work and work with me in the playground and recreation activities of Altoona.

Several patriotic meetings have so far been held where the efforts of the citizens have been voiced freely relative to the position Altoona takes in the present crisis. Of the 70,000 population we have, approximately 5,000 are Germans.

* * *

W. M. CASTLE, Castle-Pierce Printing Company, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Physical fitness for national service, and planting the vacant lots for food and physical vigor. That's fine. That's our slogan.

Our own recreation director is carrying out a program for physical development which consists of active games, swimming, outdoor playgrounds, and a municipal camp. With regard to patriotic meetings, we are planning a Memorial Day Pageant with a chorus of 1000, cast 200, orchestra 33 pieces; also a patriotic parade in which 5000 school children will march "with an American flag on one shoulder and a hoe on the other," as our board president puts it.

* * *

J. R. BATCHELOR, Director of Recreation, Duluth, Minnesota

We are taking up the matter of vacant lot gardening and pushing it very hard. We are also pushing patriotic meetings.

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I should like to suggest, in view of the fact that so many of our troops are doing guard duty in our own country, and in view of the fact that they are having so much time hanging on their hands, that the recreation association suggest to the officers the need for constructive activities for their leisure time. Games should be provided and vacant lots utilized near the headquarters for outdoor playground games, and club houses should be equipped with checkers and other games for their leisure time.

* * *

LILLIAN W. BETTS, Parks and Playgrounds Association, Brooklyn, New York

We have taken up vacant lot gardening in Brooklyn, securing people to cultivate the land offered, and securing the land for the people who ask for specified plots. The practical side of the work is carried on by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, an expert supervisor being placed in charge of the work.

* * *

HARRY P. CLARKE, Supervisor of Physical Education, Public Schools and Director of Community Recreation, Winnetka, Illinois

The Winnetka War Emergency Union has been organized in Winnetka, Illinois, as a result of a class in military drill and training, organized at our community gymnasium several weeks ago. We secured the services of an ex-regular army commissioned officer to take charge, enrolling my assistant and several others as instructors. We already have 150 men training. We plan one night per week for close order drill, setting up exercises and lectures on personal and camp hygiene, Saturday afternoons to be devoted to field and extended order drill. The general scheme was suggested by a prominent lawyer of Chicago, who called a meeting of the influential residents of Winnetka to organize, after he had witnessed the enthusiasm displayed by the men in the training class.

We are now canvassing the town to secure all available land for free gardens, to be apportioned to citizens on application for the production of foods for home consumption. We are beating the organization into shape as rapidly as possible. A general meeting is called for all residents to hear details and ratify departmental committees.

If a national recreation board is organized, I volunteer and offer the services of my one male assistant for any service we are

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called upon to perform. I will supply you with details of the entire scheme as soon as they are complete. The unanimous expression of our community is: "Tell us what to do—teach us how to do it—and we *will* do it."

We are also agitating the organization of a North Shore Hospital Unit, including Kenilworth, Wilmette, Winnetka and Glencoe, cooperating with the North Shore Medical Association.

* * *

HELEN TUCKER LORD, Assistant, Playground and Recreation Association of America, New York City

Would patriotic meetings be a way to draw in the foreign population of the town? Could there be a series of meetings, the program of each presented by American citizens of a certain nationality designed to lead as many others as possible of that nationality to become naturalized? Could naturalization classes be carried on through the recreation system?

* * *

H. L. KAYTON, Chairman Recreation Commission, Savannah, Georgia

We have this year installed two civic gardens and the Commission is encouraging vacant lot development in every way possible. The Parent-Teachers' Association of the various schools have secured and planted vacant lots, and the result will be an increased supply of fresh vegetables, which will be produced in connection with the outdoor recreation work of the Commission. This will undoubtedly add greatly to the physical condition of the children and at the same time afford them recreation and educate them in the way of planting and raising food-stuffs. The Recreation Commission is encouraging and developing this work to the extent of its financial ability.

To Recreation Secretaries:

"Every Scout feed a soldier." "Feed or fight." "Beans and potatoes." These are the slogans now being used. America not only faces a serious food shortage now—she will probably have a shortage for several years to come despite all we can do. Recreation leaders, according to reports received, are doing all they can to help. In other years, many recreation systems have maintained gardens. This year, apparently, nearly all are gardening and upon a much larger scale.

1. Where there are backyards, backyard gardens are encour

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aged. Boys are taking their backyards and neighboring vacant lots and attempting to raise all the potatoes their families will need for the winter.

2. The city engineers and the real estate agents help in locating the owners of vacant lots.

3. Owners are glad to cooperate with recreation commissions by giving the use of their land as a national service.

4. Newspapers are giving generous publicity and thus securing many offers of vacant lots for gardening.

5. Specialists in gardening are training playground helpers and the land is developed under the watchful eyes of the playground directors. Funds expended for the salary of garden specialists are well spent.

6. Waste and confusion are avoided by team work with all working on the food and gardening problem. Letters received show that recreation leaders are careful not to do what others are already doing well. Where other organizations are not working, recreation leaders are seeking and receiving the cooperation of many different groups in their communities.

7. "Plow no playgrounds," writes one leader. Surely there will be in most cities plenty of land without. A corner of the regular playground, sometimes, but a whole playground—No.

8. Very valuable suggestions for home and vacant lot gardening may be secured from the following sources:

Bulletins on Gardening issued by the Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Bulletins issued by Mass. Agricultural College, Oregon Agricultural College, and the Agricultural College of your state

Bulletins issued by the Home Gardening Association of Cleveland

Bulletins on backyard gardens issued by the Brooklyn Botanical Garden of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences

The Garden Primer issued by the Mayor's Food Committee, 71 Broadway, N. Y.

Children's Gardens for Pleasure, Health and Education by Henry G. Parsons, published by Sturges & Walton, New York City

How to Make a Vegetable Garden and How to Make School Gardens, published by Doubleday, Page & Company

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9. Several recreation systems interested in gardening because of the present war situation have asked what cities have reported gardening as one of their playground activities. Perhaps others who have not asked this question will wish to have the information given below to help secure support for their own plans:

List of Cities Reporting on Gardening as One of Their Playground Activities 1917 Year Book

Arkansas

Fort Smith
Rogers and Bentonville

California

Oakland
San Diego
San Jose
San Francisco

Colorado

Boulder
Denver
Greeley
Lamar
Pueblo

Connecticut

Hartford
Meriden
Wallingford
Waterbury

District of Columbia

Washington

Florida

Tampa

Georgia

Macon

Illinois

Berwyn
Chicago
Earlville
Evanston
Gibson City
Joliet
Rochelle

Indiana

Columbus
East Chicago
Indianapolis
Muncie
Portland
Richmond
South Bend
Terre Haute

Iowa

Cedar Falls
Sioux City

Kansas

Atchinson
Emporia
Fredonia
Independence
Newton

Kentucky

Danville

Louisiana

New Orleans

Maine

Presque Isle

Maryland

Cumberland

Massachusetts

Braintree
Concord
Danvers
Framingham
Franklin
Holyoke

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Marlboro	<i>New York</i>
Milton	Albany
Newburyport	Binghamton
Newton	Buffalo
Norwood	Fulton
Salem	Hudson Falls
Somerville	Ithaca
Stoneham	Lackawanna
Wakefield	Malone
Wayland	Mechanicsville
Williamstown	New York
<i>Michigan</i>	Plattsburg
Detroit	Rochester
Harbor Beach	Utica
Ishpeming	<i>Ohio</i>
Kalamazoo	Canton
Lansing	Cleveland
Pontiac	Columbus
<i>Minnesota</i>	Dayton
Minneapolis	Gallipolis
Rochester	Newark
Winona	<i>Oklahoma</i>
<i>Missouri</i>	Muskogee
St. Louis	<i>Pennsylvania</i>
<i>Montana</i>	Altoona
Gilford	Duquesne
Kalispell	East Pittsburg
<i>North Carolina</i>	Lansford
Charlotte	Johnstown
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Pittston
Concord	Pottstown
Franklin	Reading
Laconia	West Reading
Nashua	Wyomissing
<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>Rhode Island</i>
Jersey City	East Providence
Montclair	Pawtucket
New Brunswick	Westerly
Princeton	<i>Texas</i>
South Orange	El Paso
Summit	Waco

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Vermont

Brattleboro

Washington

Tacoma

West Virginia

Fairmont

Wisconsin

Kenosha

Sheboygan

Waupaca

Canada

Ontario

Brockville

Toronto

Truro

Hawaii

Honolulu

April 27, 1917

To the Recreation Secretaries:

A National Commission on Training Camp Activities has been appointed by the Secretary of War. The Commission has not yet published any program but one of the tasks before it will necessarily be to help in developing the recreation resources in communities in the neighborhood of the training camps in such a way as to be of the greatest possible value to the officers and soldiers.

The problem of recreation is as important a military problem as any that exists and the relation of outside conditions to the camps is a vital feature of this problem and one with which it is especially appropriate that recreation workers should deal. They have special knowledge in this matter possessed by no one else and if they do not perform this vital service it will be performed by no one and our armies will in consequence suffer losses greater than those in many battles.

There is also the problem of developing recreation within the training camps. How this service will be organized has not been decided but it is likely to offer a field of opportunity for recreation workers especially qualified for it.

The men on the National Commission on Training Camp Activities are:

Raymond Fosdick, of the Rockefeller Foundation; Lee F. Hanmer, of the Russell Sage Foundation; Joseph Lee, of the Playground and Recreation Association of America; Joseph E. Raycroft, of Princeton University; John R. Mott, of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A.; Malcolm L. McBride, of Cleveland; Thomas J. Howells, of Pittsburgh; Major Palmer E. Pierce, U. S. A.; Charles P. Neill, of Pittsburgh.

RURAL RECREATION

RURAL RECREATION*

"In the development of rural recreation we are just beginning to light the lamp of history and that illumination is the biggest thing in country life." In these words the importance of rural recreation was brought home to the delegates assembled at the Congress.

The value of rural recreation as a factor in community life is due in a great degree to three main factors:

(a) The greater part of our population lives in rural communities.

(b) People living in rural districts, statistics prove, are not so fit physically as city people.

(c) There is a great need of recreation in rural districts because there is a great lack of social life.

Michigan has 374 clubs for boys and girls under the direction of Mr. E. C. Lindemann, State Club Leader. Every one of these clubs is working on some real home project. Their function is three-fold:

(a) The economic function which is absolutely essential in rural recreation.

(b) The social function which enables the children to come together to discuss their various activities and to play games.

(c) The educational function through which the club leader correlates the club activities with those of the school.

Games practicable for use in rural schools must have the following elements:

(a) They must be safe. Basket ball has not in general been found desirable in rural districts but vigorous games which do not have elements tending toward over-strain should be encouraged. Volley ball is the best game. *Horse and Rider* is also excellent for rural children.

(b) They must require a minimum of equipment. In rural districts the luxuries of the play world are out of place.

(c) They must be games which can be played together by boys and girls and which permit of playing by large numbers of children as well as by a few.

(d) Good games are indigenous and come out of the life of the children.

*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916

RURAL RECREATION

Difficulties Militating against a Play Program

A number of difficulties present themselves in putting a play program into action. While it is a simple matter in the city to get together a group of people interested in the same thing, it is a difficult problem in the country. The man who works alone in the field will not have the same outlook as the man who works in a group. Country children reflect the individualistic training of their parents and, lacking initiative, do not play well together. In country schools there are often so few children that it seems impossible to play games and there is great difficulty in getting together a group of children in rural districts. It was Mr. Lindemann's experience, however, that if there are six children it is possible to play games. In the country there is a lack of leadership and of facilities for recreation. The country schools in most instances are not adapted to play purposes. The need for leisure time is not recognized by the parents of country children and the never-ending work of the farm limits leisure-time activities.

The lack of native leadership in country districts makes the question of leadership a very urgent one. A play leader in a rural district cannot be successful unless he is willing to open up his life absolutely to the community. He is always in the public eye and must live up to the definition that "Character is what one is in the dark." He must have a love for and understanding of country children and must be able to play himself. There is no room for the person who is apologetic or ashamed of his work.

Rural Teachers in Community Recreation

Mr. Ernest Burnham, Director of the Department of Rural Schools, Western State Normal School, Kalamazoo, Michigan, summarized the vital need in rural recreation in the words, "The objective of creative leadership is to beget or discover the dynamic sense of leadership in individuals and in institutions and to continually vivify the same in action." In rural districts the rural school teacher must be the leader, through her consciousness of the child and her own social consciousness.

The Normal School as an Important Factor in the Training of the Teacher for Leadership

In general normal schools are laying emphasis on the health ideal rather than the social and are giving far more training in physical education than in game work. There should be a change in curriculum which would make it possible for training in games to be

RURAL RECREATION

included. Efforts are being made in some normal schools, however, to meet the need for training in recreation. In the summer-school course of the normal course at DeKalb, Illinois, every girl is equipped with a knowledge of at least fifteen or twenty games. There are special schools in Michigan for rural leadership. The Kalamazoo Normal School offers a summer course and there are a number of county institutes helpful to rural leaders. In Wisconsin articles on rural recreation appear each month in the bulletin of the State Department of Education. Certain books have been put on the required list for the teachers' reading circles. The county training schools are doing good work along the line of training for rural leadership.

Work of Parent-Teachers' Organizations in Rural Districts

That Parent-Teachers' Associations provide a medium for starting community recreation in rural districts, was the statement of Mrs. Fred Dick, President of the Federation of Parent-Teachers' Associations in Colorado. The object of Parent-Teachers' organizations is to bring the parent and the teacher, the home and the school, into intelligent cooperation by bringing about a mutual understanding on the part of the parents and teachers of the problems of the home and the school. The great need for some socializing influence in the rural school makes of vital importance the work of Parent-Teachers' Associations in rural districts.

The country school must have a large part in rural recreation. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that the unattractive and desolate school yard which persists in country school districts shall be beautified. The cinder-surfaced city playground is after all only a makeshift, yet it is often held up as a model after which small communities are trying to pattern when nothing could be more desirable than that the natural beauty of the country be imprisoned in the school yard. In the opinion of Miss Mari Hofer, much of the degeneracy and loose speech current among children in rural districts may be attributed to the unloveliness, baldness and crudity of the school and its surroundings.

Practical Demonstration of Rural Club Work

A seed corn stringing and potato paring contest by a group of club boys and girls as well as a demonstration of games, added greatly to the interest of the discussion on rural work. In the seed corn

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stringing contest, the boys worked in pairs, each of them stringing two ears. For the potato paring contest, the girls were divided into two teams, each of which had a quantity of potatoes equal in weight although necessarily varying in number. The score was made on the time consumed and the weight of the parings. The winning team made a score of 22 ounces of parings in 5.5 minutes.

The contests were followed by a demonstration of methods of teaching minimum equipment games, found successful in rural districts. The boys and girls entered with great enthusiasm into the playing of such games as *Japanese croe relay*, *over and under relay*, and *call ball*.

Mr Lindemann, State Club Leader for Michigan, in explaining the organization of the club work which had been presented, stated that in each community there is a county agricultural agency and a county club leader. Each community has its local leader who is a year-round worker. During the school year the teacher plays a prominent part in club activities.

Community Celebrations

Community celebrations as developed by the Cooperative Educational Association of Virginia have been very effective in getting people in rural districts to come together for recreational purposes. So successful has been the work of the association which was organized about twelve years ago by a group of individuals who felt that the schools should become agencies for developing community life, that today there are 1,200 communities in Virginia organized for other purposes. As a result there has been brought about a strong spirit of cooperation in these communities, which has found its expression in better roads, better schools, and other educational facilities as well as in neighborhood recreation.

The plan for community celebrations as outlined by Mr. J. H. Montgomery, ex-secretary of the Cooperative Educational Association, involves the coming together of the whole community family at the schoolhouse for the celebration of special festivals.

This substitution of community for individual family or small group observance of holidays has resulted in a new, a deeper significance for the celebrations. Thanksgiving Day becomes Farm Improvement Day. The people come together not only to give thanks for what they have but to plan for the future. Washington's Birthday becomes Good Roads Day, in memory of the man who

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blazed roads through the trackless forest that those of less fortitude might follow. Christmas with a Community Christmas Tree takes on a broader meaning. May Day celebration follows the old customs which have become associated with the festival. Independence Day becomes Good Health and Clean-up Day, commemorating the giving up of the lives of our fore-fathers for the life of the country, by emphasizing the necessity of safe-guarding the lives and health of their descendants.

As the identity and unity of the Hebrews has undoubtedly been preserved partly through the strict observance of their holidays, so might America as a nation gain strength and unity through the community observance of her national days.

Most Effective Forms of Community Drama

The best medium for creating community spirit through dramatics, according to Prof. C. B. Mitchell of the Michigan Agricultural College, lies in the pageant which takes the form of a huge dance participated in by the entire community. Other forms of dramatics which can be successfully used in rural centers with minimum equipment, include the following: tableaux, pantomimes, living statuary, shadowgraphs, one-act plays, and rural problem plays, of which there is a dearth.

In no way can the plea for dancing, Sunday recreation, and means for making rural life worth while be more effectively presented than through the problem play. Those of this type which have been found unusually good are *Back to the Farm*, and *Kindling the Hearth Fire* by Martin Sheunway of the Extension Division of the University of Minnesota, and *A Bee in a Drone's Hive* which may be obtained through Prof. Alfred G. Arvold of the South Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo.

The giving of pageants in rural districts presents three main difficulties which must be met and overcome.

1. Lack of time. This may be overcome by perfecting organization so that no great amount of the burden rests on the shoulders of any one person.

2. A lack of material. If material means subject, it is desirable to use some historical subject that deals with the community itself. Costumes and properties may be unearthed in attics in which is stored away much of great historical value. Costumes should be inexpensive as the expenditure of too much money will rob too many people of the joyous part of the pageant. A good

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rule for filling of parts is, "If a man looks the part, try him out."

3. Lack of interest. This is a difficulty which is often hard to overcome in rural districts but in producing something which of necessity requires so much cooperation, interest is bound to grow.

A number of boys and girls from the Lansing, Michigan, High School presented in pantomime a shortened version of a pageant read by Miss Mary Derby which pictured labor through the help of truth breaking the chains with which superstition has bound him and conquering want.

Music and Drama Professor Peter W. Dykema, presiding, declared that the chief value of dramatics is in the extension of personality made possible by breaking away from the conventional individual unified personality and entering into the experiences of the characters portrayed. The teacher who can act the banker is thereby broadened. In a discussion of the dangers involved in having the *villain* parts enacted, although one or two expressed the opinion that the acting of villain parts tends to develop villainous natures, the majority opinion was that this develops an intelligent abhorrence of evil. Virtue is intelligible only on the background of vice.

Edgar B. Gordon of Winfield, Kansas, expressed the conviction that the drama in the small town should not be confined to the movies and the atrocious travelling troupe. He described community entertainments in which the local musical and dramatic talent were utilized.

The Church in Rural Recreation

The past few years have seen a great change in the functions of the church. Its functions of education and philanthropy which had bound the people closely to it have been taken over by the state; the old distinction between sacred and secular which designated as sacred only such things as pertained definitely to the church and its service, and everything outside this classification as secular and hence to be avoided, has been outgrown. The time has come when the church must put its stamp of approval upon recreation and must come more closely in contact with the social life of the people. Only by furnishing facilities and opportunities for social life or at least by cooperating with the social agencies of the community, can the church hope to draw to it or hold young people.

The question which the church of today has to face is not,

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"Shall we have Sunday recreation?" for that already exists but, "What kind of Sunday recreation shall we have?" Shall the church frown upon recreation and divorce the young people or shall it approve and provide facilities for the right sort of recreation. As a possible solution of this problem, Rev. W. A. Thompson of DeWitt, Michigan, quoted the statement of Prof. Caron of Harvard University: "If recreation can be under the auspices of some institution which will preserve sanity and wholesomeness, there is no harm in Sunday recreation."

It is a very encouraging sign that the church in realizing its responsibility in the provision of proper recreation, is laying stress in its theological seminary on recreation as a part of the training of the students.

The Relation of the Young Men's Christian Association to Rural Recreation Because Y. M. C. A. leaders recognize that a boy's life and character can be readily molded and shaped through his play, they are laying great stress upon recreation in their county work.

Work in an individual county is started through the efforts of the state executive secretary who secures the cooperation of all the social agencies of the county and organizes the county committee whose duty it is to raise funds to employ a county secretary. The county secretary in turn trains volunteer leaders for the various communities and keeps in close personal touch with all the work that is being done. In its county and township work the Y. M. C. A. works in cooperation with all existing forces, supplementing the three fundamental agencies, the home, the school, and the church. Just as good roads are furnishing easier means of communication, so the Y. M. C. A. county work is bringing the communities into closer touch with one another. County fairs offer opportunities for the boys from different localities to become better acquainted with one another. Through county athletic contests, field meets, camps, hikes, and outings arranged by the county secretary, the social and community life is quickened. When field meets and similar activities are held, one school usually acts as host and the festivities last all day. State leadership conferences which are frequently held aid greatly in developing this vital phase of the work.

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Experiments in Rural Recreation

In the enumeration of the "planks" of the rural recreation platform the following specific examples of experiments along special lines of rural recreation work were given:

1. The Social Center as exemplified by the little country school in Oak Ridge, South Carolina, which has become the center of the life of the whole community. Here on the school porch, a group of men and women including the old southern Baptist deacon "play" the quadrille. To the children of this school, the hoe ranks with the ball bat as a symbol of play because of the inspiration received in the school garden work.

2. The Special Day and Community Fair.—No better example of this phase of rural recreation can be quoted than the work which is being done in Virginia through the Cooperative Education Association.

3. Community Music. Asheville, North Carolina is conducting interesting experiments along this line by sending out orchestras to surrounding communities. Not only is Asheville benefiting through the growth of community spirit, but the communities visited by the orchestras are also being awakened by a desire to emulate the community spirit shown by Asheville.

4. Boys' and Girls' Agricultural Clubs. The clubs conducted throughout Michigan which were described at the Congress, are an excellent example of this phase of rural work.

5. The Drama of Folk Play as exemplified by the pageant held in Anoka, Minnesota

6. Athletic and Playground Work in Rural Districts, which has come to have so important a place in rural community life

7. High School Cooperative Leagues. Among the experiments in rural life which are proving valuable contributions to the movement, are the high school cooperative leagues organized in Virginia communities. Except for the presence of one teacher on the executive board, these organizations are governed entirely by student committees. Meetings are held once in two weeks, when the activities consist of debates, readings, plays, and athletics. In order to encourage the use of as many games as possible, the State Department of Education of Virginia has issued a manual entitled *Play and Athletics for Virginia Public Schools*. Local, community, and state contests are held, the latter taking place at the State University. The leagues, which have the close cooperation of the Young Men's Christian Association, play a conspicuous part in

HOW GRASS LAKE SECURED A PLAYGROUND

special day celebrations. Their work will doubtless be greatly furthered by the law recently passed in Virginia which requires that every rural school having three or more teachers shall have an auditorium.

8. *Star Commonwealth for Boys.* An experiment in which recreation plays an important part is the *Star Commonwealth for Boys*, a forty-acre farm where boys who have not been touched by the Young Men's Christian Association, the church, or any recreation system—the delinquent, friendless, and incorrigible boy is given a wholesome training. Organized recreation rather than the idea of punishment or reform is the basis of all the work of the *Star Commonwealth*.

9. *University Extension Work in Rural Districts.* The University Extension Department of the State University of Iowa is helping to solve rural community problems by working mainly through chambers of commerce in small towns. The extension departments of many state universities and agricultural colleges are doing much in the development of volunteer leaders in rural communities upon whom must depend the work of outlining and interpreting the movement. This leadership and cooperation on the part of expert workers of the departments is exceedingly vital in view of the fact that if voluntary service is to be effective the volunteer worker must know what it is all about; must understand what part of his work is playing in the movement as a whole.

The Department of Agriculture at Washington is collecting information regarding social, civic and recreation organizations in rural communities—organizations that are enriching rural life. The department will tabulate and classify this information so that each rural section can learn of the experiments and successes of other communities which are accomplishing results along this line.

HOW GRASS LAKE, MICHIGAN, SECURED AND MAINTAINED A PLAYGROUND*

W. A. CUTLER

Grass Lake, Michigan, is a village of 800 people with a large area of farms tributary to it. The population consists for the

*Mr. Cutler went to Grass Lake several years ago suffering from a nervous breakdown. Farm life gave him the invigoration needed. He is now pastor of the Congregational church with another church under his care and is running a farm of 245 acres.

HOW GRASS LAKE SECURED A PLAYGROUND

most part of people of New England, New York and German stock.

There are three churches, a Congregational, a Methodist, and a Baptist. The feeling is cordial and for twelve years or more Union services have been held every Sunday night the year-round.

The schools are fair but have meagre equipment. Teachers are not particularly well paid. There is no gymnasium and laboratory privileges are limited. The Board of Education is conservative.

During the past ten years several attempts have been made, unsuccessfully, to secure a ball park. An association was formed which secured a piece of ground for a short time but this attempt failed. High school boys tried on several occasions to rent ground but the objections of near-by residents or the greed of real estate owners prevented any result. Finally the organization of a Boy Scout Club was effective in interesting the boys. By petitioning the Town Board, the Scouts secured the use of the Town Hall for indoor sports during the winter of 1915-16. Through the efforts of the local scout officer, who was pastor of the Congregational church, an option was secured on five acres of land situated on the outskirts of the village and fronting on the lake. A liberal offer of five acres for \$300 was made by the owner. The Scout officers persuaded the School Board to call a public meeting at which it was universally voted to raise \$1,000 to secure and equip the land. A local committee was appointed with the president of the village council as chairman. The cashier of the bank was made chairman of the high school alumni committee which worked in cooperation with the local committee and the treasurer of the School Board was made treasurer of the fund. The money was secured and the grounds purchased by April 1, 1916.

The deed of the ground was made over to the School Board. In this way it became the property of the School Board and as such was exempt from taxation. Prior to receiving the deed, however, the School Board passed a resolution binding itself and its successors to hold the land, existing funds and all subsequent funds raised by fees from games and other sources in trust for park and playground purposes—said funds to be used for the equipment and maintenance of the grounds for athletic and playground purposes. The Board made further provision that a committee of five students, two from the senior and one from each of the other classes, be elected each year to cooperate with a committee of the School Board in the supervision and care of the ground.

CONFERENCE ON RECREATION IN CITIES AND TOWNS

As soon as the grounds were secured, work was begun on putting the field in shape. The park has been enclosed and a small club house built. A baseball diamond has been laid out and equipment for the younger children set up on the part of the ground adjoining the school building. Plans for future development provide for a running track around the field, the setting up of trees around the park and on the lake front, and the equipment of the beach on the lake for aquatic sports. The movement has deepened the community spirit and has given the older members a tremendous leverage on the young life of the community. The churches are feeling the effects of the work in a large increase in membership and influence.

CONFERENCE ON RECREATION IN CITIES AND TOWNS OF LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND POPULATION*

Small city problems and needs were outlined by Mr. R. K. Atkinson, of Sag Harbor, as follows:

"Cities of less than 10,000 people show the greatest lack of interest in the play movement. There commercial recreation is a dominant factor. Dance-halls, railroad parks and moving-picture theatres prevail. There is no supervision of commercial recreation in a small city. By tactful work, a playground leader may direct the commercial recreation or make good suggestions. He may direct the best type of censorship, enlighten public opinion, and guide public demand.

"The ideal for a small city is two-fold: first, to provide for the leisure-time problem in the form of social centers, playgrounds, and parks; second, to introduce a real play program into the life of the community and make it a part of the educational program.

"A playground association should not be organized in a small city unless a responsible worker can stay with it. The best type of club to work with is a social service club. This club is composed of all social workers and people interested in social welfare. The club should meet once a month for discussion. It should be the clearing-house for all social service activities. The play leader should be the coordinating force in this club's activities."

*Discussion at Recreation Congress Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916

HOME, SCHOOL AND VACANT LOT GARDENING

HOME, SCHOOL, AND VACANT LOT GARDENING*

Gardening as a phase of rural recreation has come to occupy an important place in the recreation program.

Mr. H. F. Machotka, county leader of boys' and girls' club work, in developing garden work through the schools, has found that there are four essentials to successful work.

1. Literature along the line of bulletins, such as are published by the Department of Agriculture and the State Agricultural Colleges

2. A demonstration garden at each school

3. A visit from the county leader or agricultural agent at least once a month, when the boys and girls meet to discuss their problems

4. A canning club, which is necessary because it rounds out the plan by developing the economic side

Experience has shown that there are three factors giving value to gardening which combine to justify gardening as an important activity.

1. Gardening is a correlative factor in the play movement. The soil idea is one of the first ideas to be coupled with play. Little children have always loved to dig in the earth. Later the soil idea becomes coupled in the child's mind with the plant and he finally grasps the idea of life.

2. Gardening is economically coordinated with play, work, and business. In the unconscious play which the child enjoys, in the muscular exercise he gains, in the fact that he is learning the value of work because he sees that he must work in order to get anything out of life, and in the training he receives in keeping records and accounts of his work.

3. Gardening is contributory to character and personality. Through it may be developed thrift, stick-to-it-iveness, foresightedness, powers of observation, a cheerful and happy spirit, cooperation, determination, and dignity of character.

Experiences in School Gardening

Miss Frances Van Buren, Principal of one of the Grand Rapids schools, told of her experience in starting school gardens last year. She was able to secure the use of four vacant lots. The Association of Commerce

*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2-6, 1916

WAYS AND MEANS

met the expense of preparing the soil. Although gardening was not compulsory, 266 children stayed by the work until harvest-time and two small boys made \$50 apiece from the proceeds of their plots.

The teacher of a little one-room school in California introduced gardening as a means of preserving order in seven grades while she was teaching the eighth. When the children had prepared their lessons it was understood they might work in their gardens. She found that the children were not only preparing their lessons better and more rapidly while she was being freed from many problems of discipline but that they were getting valuable training in outdoor work.

In Detroit, a supervisor of gardens is employed under the Recreation Commission for ten months. During the garden season she has two workers who are employed at the centers during the rest of the year. Last summer there were 300 gardens.

A resolution was introduced, asking for a section on children's and adults' home and school gardens at the next Recreation Congress.

WAYS AND MEANS

John R. Richards of Chicago, in his discussion of ways and means defined "ways" to mean the objective of a play movement in a city, the method of its organization, and the facilities necessary to put the objective across. The "means" include the revenues needed to support the play movement and the method of raising these revenues.

In presenting the three aspects of the problem of ways, Mr. Richards said, "Each community must work out its own objective. For its objective the community must essentially devise plans of solving the leisure time problems of all the people within its jurisdiction. It must also furnish opportunities of developmental recreation for all people. Early play dealt with child life alone. But to make the objective concrete, a play program must take care of four groups: (a) Children under twelve, (b) Adolescent children, (c) Young men and young women, (d) Adult groups. This concrete

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objective does not mean that public recreation will be substituted for private recreational efforts but will provide opportunities for all people who desire it.

Municipal Support of Playgrounds a Necessity "Communities may differ in the scheme of organization for the play movement, but all

agree that the movement should be publicly administered and supported. Charity has no more place in the field of recreation than in the field of education. We are never going to have a universal need more properly handled than by public agencies. The play movement cannot be trusted to private organization. No commercial organization should have anything to do with human recreation. Commercial recreation hasn't worked.

"However, there is no traditional form of government to take care of recreation as the government takes care of education, fire, and police protection. The bogie of the watchdog of the treasury is listed against a new thing. The first attempt to put recreation into the hands of the government is to have old boards administer. The play movement is not yet an independent part of the government. I am afraid of school boards. To put recreation into the control of old boards formalizes and stratifies it, which in turn kills its very function. In 1912 Chicago's school board spent \$143,000 on fences to keep people out of school grounds and \$12,000 on social centers to invite people into school grounds.

"Boards exclusive of existing boards are essential to put across the recreation program. City charters need to be amended to create a unit of government having independent control of equipment for recreation and its administration.

Outdoor and Indoor Facilities Essential

"Facilities are needed to take care of the outdoor and indoor life of the four groups. Do not spend money at the start for apparatus. Good play surface, and competent play leaders are more important than apparatus. We have got to teach play knowledge. For fifty years we have had no play heritage—largely because of immigration.

"The outdoor equipment should include sand courts, wading pools, grass and shade for children, ball fields, tennis courts, golf courses, swimming pools, skating rinks for adolescents and young people; walks, drives, and boating for older people.

"Indoor facilities should include playrooms for children, gym-

WAYS AND MEANS

nasiums for adolescents and young people, assembly halls and baths for adults. Toilets and drinking fountains should be provided before other equipment.

"Equipment costs money. The economic value of the playground to the community is strikingly brought out in the case of a boy bandit, trained in a Chicago pool room, whose misdeeds cost the city of Chicago \$150,000. The annual maintenance of a park playground in the neighborhood of the pool room is only \$35,000. The pool room closed up soon after the playground was opened."

Should the Playground Have a Regular Program?

At the close of the discussion of ways and means the question, "Should the playground have a regular program?" was brought up. It was the general feeling that a program to fill the needs of a community must be flexible. In Milwaukee, for example, the programs are divided into set periods in which games of a high and low degree of organization are scheduled. Considerable freedom is given playground leaders to make necessary adjustments. Children in the neighborhood are trained to expect certain games at certain periods.

There are in general four reasons which explain the absence of children from a playground.

(a) Undesirable location—the ground may be near a dangerous place such as a railroad yard, or too remote from the neighborhood to attract the children

(b) Inefficient leaders—workers who loaf on the job or who have not the personality to meet and direct people

(c) Religious or neighborhood prejudice or ignorance

(d) Domination of bad gangs

The Americanization of the Immigrant

Mr. Sidney Teller of Pittsburgh in answer to the question, "Should the foreigners in America be encouraged to forget their past life, their ways, their literature, their language, through the program of the playground?" expressed the sentiment of the delegates present when he said, "The programs in the foreign neighborhoods of American cities should lay emphasis upon the civilizations of the immigrants and the reduction of their foreign backgrounds as quickly as possible. I have never spent one cent in advertising a program in a foreign language."

WAYS AND MEANS

Gathering Playground Statistics

In an effort to standardize the methods of gathering playground statistics, the delegates attending the conference on ways and means voted to recommend to the National Congress the plan drawn up by a committee consisting of Mr. Sidney Teller, of Pittsburgh, Mr. V. K. Brown of Newark, and Mr. Charles H. Mills, of Grand Rapids. The plan as reported is as follows:

In recording playground statistics, two principles should be used:

- (a) The number of participants should be actually counted.
- (b) The number of spectators should be estimated.

The records of participants and spectators should be listed separately and the record would state whether the count is actual or estimated.

For outdoor activities on the playground it is suggested that three counts be taken during the day, once in the morning, once in the afternoon, and once in the evening. The record should show the highest number of people on the playground during these periods.

For swimming pool actual count can be made by recording number of towels or suits given out.

For indoor activities the record should differentiate between participants and spectators and state whether the count is actual or estimated.

The Arousing of Public Sentiment to Provide Adequate Recreational Facilities

The two general methods outlined for arousing sentiment in favor of playgrounds were: (a) publicity, (b) actual demonstration.

The advantage of using these two methods is that each reaches a different group of people. In Omaha it has been found helpful in an effort to overcome political opposition and yet interest large groups of people to work through civil and fraternal organizations. The recreation work was made so elastic that every organization could participate in a recreation program.

Detroit's plan of organizing and administering its public recreation proved a satisfactory answer to the question, "What is the value of a public recreation administrative agency which is not the primary custodian of the property upon which it conducts its work?" In Detroit approximately \$200,000 is spent annually upon public recreation without the use of the public playgrounds. The Playground Commission operates forty recreation centers all

DUES AND CHARGES FOR RECREATION PRIVILEGES

the year round and fifty-five summer playgrounds, all located on private property or public property used for other purposes. Settlements, churches, club houses, and factories give the commission the use of their plants one or more evenings a week. It would cost the city \$50,000,000 to reproduce the equipment placed at the commission's disposal by these various institutions. When a recreation center is taken over by the city it is opened to the public regardless of race, sect, color or sex. While under the operation of the commission, the center is a public matter. The leaders are provided by the commission.

By making the heads of five city departments, the Superintendent of Schools, the Chief Librarian, the Public Commissioner, the Superintendent of Public Works, and the Superintendent of Parks and Playgrounds, in addition to five private citizens, members of its Recreation Commission, Detroit has secured the coordination, cooperation, efficiency and economy necessary to make the organization and administration of its public recreation so successful. The commission receives its appropriations from the City Council.

Control of Commercial Recreation A difference of opinion prevailed on the question of the centralization and supervision and censorship of commercial recreation. Some of the delegates favored the placing of such power in the hands of the recreation commission. Mr. George A. Bellamy of Hiram House, Cleveland, said that in that city inspection and supervision are under the control of the mayor who appoints a policeman inspector. Mr. Ira Jayne, of Detroit, doubted the advisability of such power coming into the hands of the Recreation Commission. In Detroit, the commission has not insisted upon the power because it is a well-known police function. To place the supervision in the hands of the commission would give that body trouble which it would not otherwise meet.

DUES AND CHARGES FOR RECREATION PRIVILEGES*

In discussing the advisability of making charges for any of the activities of a neighborhood recreation center, those in favor

*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 5, 1916

POLITICS

of such a plan felt it necessary and advisable, first, for the self-respect of those using the privilege and second, for the securing of attendance at the centers.

Those in favor of the free use of neighborhood recreation center facilities took the ground that if recreation is as important to the children's development as education, it is not consistent to ask for a publicly supported school system absolutely free to all children and at the same time to try to develop a system of dues and charges for something which is of equal if not greater importance than formal instruction. The sentiment for dues and charges seemed to some to be more or less opportunistic and to work against a thoroughly democratic system in recreation work.

POLITICS*

Political opposition to municipal recreation is but temporary and is due, according to W. F. Ashe, chairman of the meeting, to recreation secretaries, "who have not been careful enough to inform the men in charge of our government." Mr. Ashe reviewed a campaign of education among city officials in Pittsburgh, which resulted in a strong letter advocating municipal recreation from Mayor Armstrong, who said, "My early impression and opposition to playgrounds was due to ignorance. Now I believe that the recreation movement is the most important of social welfare work, and it is so important that it should be financed by the municipality alone."

A discussion of the political aspects of civil service showed the delegates evenly divided for and against it. Mr. Bellamy, of Cleveland, thought that the great asset of civil service is that it creates a public conscience. Not civil service but the constant shifting of men and public discussion has brought good men. Mr. Teller, of Pittsburgh, declared civil service is ninety percent integrity and ten percent law. If the law is good and the examinations are poor, civil service is bad. Civil service is good only when the commissioners are good.

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GROUP ORGANIZATION

GROUP ORGANIZATION*

It was felt by those taking part in the discussion of group organization that in order to secure satisfactory volunteer leadership for groups there should be a training class for volunteers. The volunteer must above all learn to work *with* the group and not *for* it. In La Salle, Illinois, the Woman's Club has furnished excellent volunteer leadership.

Among the possible groups for winter activities were suggested Big Brothers' Club, Mothers' Club, Current Events Club, Camera and Walking Clubs, Employed Girls' Club, Travel, Dramatics, Handicraft and Civics and Domestic Science Clubs, Girl Scouts and Girl Pioneers.

The organization for a large playground as described by John R. Richards of Chicago, is as follows: The space should be divided into three parts; one for children under ten, one for older boys and one for older girls. There should be supervision from eight-thirty in the morning until nine-thirty in the evening. This will necessitate two shifts of play leaders; one from eight-thirty to five o'clock and one from two-thirty to nine-thirty o'clock. The children should be organized for self-government and for keeping the grounds clean. The play leaders must not only supervise, but must impart play knowledge. This will be accomplished by having a definite though flexible program. A suggested program includes the following:

Eight-thirty to eleven a. m., early morning period. Individual instruction in use of apparatus, children's swings, active games, practice period. Eleven to three-thirty o'clock, hot period; stories, light games, use of sand piles, playing store. Three-thirty to six, lively games. Six-thirty to nine, special activities for adults.

It was further suggested that this plan of organization with the exception of the three-part division, would apply also to a small playground.

It has been found helpful in Los Angeles, California, to have the director live on the playground.

Duties of Director A director should not spend his time umpiring games. He should not encourage the pennant and trophy idea which at this stage of development should be outgrown. The director would be greatly aided in his work by the introduction

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PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

of the Progress City Self-Government organization as it is conducted on the Cleveland playground. By including all departments of government the plan serves the double purpose of solving the problem of discipline on the ground and of training the boys to take an active and useful part in the civic life of the city.

Among the special play activities suggested were pushmobile contests, doll parties, pet shows, band concerts, moving pictures, singing, pantomime, pageants, baby shows. If baby shows are conducted, a good doctor must be present.

For a suburban playground the following activities were mentioned: *hare and hound*, lawn ball, roller skating, *pom-pom-pull away*, *run-sheep-run*, *I spy*, kite-flying, marshmallow roast, and *bombardment*.

Program of Appeal to the Seven Natural Instincts The seven natural instincts as outlined by Dr. E. A. Peterson of Cleveland with some of the activities which belong to each group, are as follows:

Baseball	Hunting and Fighting Cooperation	Gardening	Nurturing
Dodge ball		and	
Athletics		Pets	
Tether ball			
Quoits		Collections	Exploring
		Leaves	
Basketry	Building	Stones	
Sewing		Butterflies	
		Folk dancing	Rhythm
Belonging Instinct		Marching	
		Athletic dancing	

PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION CENTER WORK*

The first problem which arises in the establishment of neighborhood recreation center work is that of creating a demand for a center. A general and expressed demand must not be expected. The presence of an urgent need, however, and the prospect of being

*Discussion at Recreation Congress, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 4, 1916

PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

able to meet it, justify a beginning. There will always be objectors but a slow but continuous moving in the face of objections will gradually overcome them. It was the general feeling of the delegates present that it is almost invariably necessary for an employed leader to help the community organize its neighborhood center but the organizing should whenever possible be accomplished through the help of the natural local leaders.

It is exceedingly helpful in making the work of a neighborhood center community-wide, first to discover through a survey existing needs and efforts already being made to meet these needs. In planning activities, account should be taken of the various hyphenated groups but many activities should be promoted in which the "America first" idea would be fostered. As a means to this end national choruses have been developed in Chicago, all of which combine occasionally in an American chorus at which only American songs are sung.

It was the general feeling of those present that through the development of small group activities in which the members provided their own entertainment, neighborhood recreation center work would be greatly strengthened. Such small group activities should to a great degree take the place of the large group entertainments, dances and socials. Groups which in the beginning have been attracted to the centers by dances and entertainments, would be stimulated to become interested in discussions, group debates, educational dramatics, and other activities which will educate as well as entertain.

It was suggested that in an effort to reach the entire community, posters be used and that invitations be extended through such organizations as Turnvereins.

In a small community of Pennsylvania, the need of recreation for mothers has been met by the organization of Italian Mothers' Clubs. The leading Italian politician, the priest, and an educated railroad clerk take turns in leading the groups. In Kalamazoo, Michigan, where there is one paid worker for four centers, who is assisted by volunteer workers (teachers), mothers' clubs have proved successful especially in a district which has a large number of Hollanders. Here the mothers enter enthusiastically into play and active games. In one community an old church has been remodeled for use as a community house at a cost of \$4.50. The Library-Home-School Association and Board of Trade use this building as their headquarters. Moving pictures are conducted

PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

three nights each week and a chorus and an orchestra have also been organized. Next summer a Chautauqua course will be given by local talent.

It was felt by some of the delegates in discussing the question as to whether activities should be planned chiefly for young people or for the fathers, mothers, and adult members of a community, that if the interest and support of the young people were first secured that of their parents would naturally follow. In Youngstown, Ohio, the parents were reached through the ruling that an adult must accompany every two children at the community moving picture performances. The program was varied by the introduction of educational addresses. In some communities, as for example in Providence, Rhode Island, and Salt Lake City, Utah, it has been found necessary to limit the activities to young people because the controlling authorities would not appropriate funds for adult recreation. In San Diego, California, one of the centers includes illustrated lectures for adults and gymnastic games and folk dancing for children. After eight-thirty p. m. children are excluded from the center.

Activities of Neighborhood Recreation Centers

In discussing what the work of a neighborhood recreation center should be, a four-fold classification of activities was suggested—physical, social, civic, and intellectual. Under physical activities should be included gymnastic games, aesthetic and folk dancing, as well as boxing, punching the bag, and other "rough house" games for the boys. Entertainments, musicals, and dramatics, fall into the class of social activities. In the civic division come community improvement leagues, women's civic leagues, and discussion groups. It is very helpful in planning for discussion groups if different leaders are appointed each week and if the subjects for discussion are announced two weeks ahead. Under literary activities should be placed the literary society, which should not be undertaken with the idea of doing very advanced work but which should be more or less popularized.

In Milwaukee the plan is followed of attracting as many people as possible by offering the activities they want and of using the resulting personal contacts to interest them in what they need. Mr. Berg, of Milwaukee, quoted as an illustration of this the case of a young married couple coming to the center at first to dance. When questioned as to why he entered the manual training class,

PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

the young man said, "My wife wanted to go into the millinery class so instead of staying home alone I go to manual training and I like it."

Social Dancing

Chief among the social activities is the social dance. A discussion of this phase of neighborhood recreation center work fell into two groups: How vary the social dance? How control the social dance?

It was felt that social dancing should be interspersed with old folk games and parlor games. Even at the largest dances, games can be used advantageously particularly if before the dance a small group is trained to lead in the games. Lively gymnastic games and relay races may also be used successfully. The use of games in this way is useful in breaking up small cliques on the dance floor. The repetition of a grand march several times during the evening has been found a successful variation.

In controlling the social dance various plans have been tried. In Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Newark, New Jersey attendance at the dance is limited to those whom the director knows or who are vouched for by someone known to the director. In one of the Chicago centers where public dances had proved a failure because of the impossibility of securing uniformity of dress, style of dance, and conduct, a satisfactory substitute was found in the organization of a class in social dancing. Thousands have been graduated from this class and large dances are now conducted by the graduates to which their friends may come as well as those connected with other activities at the center. At this dance every boy is introduced to every girl and special pains are taken to break up cliques. At this center the installation of a refreshment room next to the dance hall has proved an excellent substitute for the near-by saloon. A class in colonial dancing at another Chicago center, organized to train for a single celebration, has become a permanent activity.

San Diego is meeting the necessity for competing with questionable dancing resorts by allowing all dances at the neighborhood center. A junior dancing club for children under fifteen has been organized that they may be taught formal politeness, proper ways of dancing, and in general trained against the misuse of the dance. Once a month a dancing party and banquet have been conducted for the children. At the center at Brookline, Massachusetts, attendance at the dances has been limited to the members of the gymnastic class, who in this class receive instruction in social dancing. Still another method for regulating the social

PROBLEMS OF NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION

dance has been successfully tried out in La Salle, Illinois, where groups desiring to conduct dances are required to furnish a list of chaperons. A necessary precaution in regulating social dancing is proper censorship of the music used.

As a result of the discussion, the delegates in attendance voted in favor of continuing social dancing as a worth-while neighborhood center activity. There was a strong feeling that when all the precautions which can be taken are taken, there still lurk many dangers in the social dance, and social workers and others interested in saving the public dance should unite in a definite plan to make it a wholesome purposeful activity and a positive force for good.

Home Economics at the Recreation Center Home economics has found a place in the program of a number of social centers. In the St. Paul centers classes in millinery, cooking, and sewing have been successfully conducted. The kitchen garden conducted at a center in Cincinnati has met with great success. At this center a class was carried on in which young women were taught the art of decorating tables for parties and banquets and of serving at such functions. One girl who received her training at this class now earns one dollar an hour decorating for banquets.

Quiet Game Room Activities It was the consensus of opinion that the quiet game room is a necessity in a well-organized neighborhood center. One of the centers in Chicago has a game club of over one hundred and fifty members of over eighteen years of age. It was suggested that in the game room might be taught games which can be taken home to enliven home recreation. There should be adequate leadership for the activities of the game room. One rule which it was suggested might well be posted in a game room is the following: "Talk as loud as you please but remember the other fellow's rights!"

The preponderance of sentiment favored the permitting of card-playing in the game rooms on the ground that it furnished excellent opportunity for wholesome recreation particularly for older people and that it helped draw young men away from the playing of cards under unwholesome surroundings. Billiards and bowling wherever feasible were approved on the same grounds.

The advisability of providing a smoking room for older men was discussed. Representatives from the following cities stated

BOOK REVIEWS

that smoking was permitted at their centers: Peoria, Illinois, Lowell, Massachusetts, Butte, Montana, and St. Albans, Vermont.

Chicago has been successful in promoting the playing together by young men and young women of gymnastic and quiet room games but not competitive team games.

There was a consensus of opinion in favor of limiting gymnastic apparatus to that required by Turners and other groups trained to use it. Haphazard use of apparatus by untrained persons was disapproved.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE GARY SCHOOLS

By R. S. Bourne. Published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston, New York, Chicago

A sentence in the preface represents the point of view from which the Gary School is regarded. "A broad educational philosophy has combined with administrative skill to produce a type of school which represents a fundamental reorganization of the public school to meet changing social and industrial conditions." Mr. Wirt himself writes in the introduction his two principles: that children should be busy all day long at work, study and play under right conditions; that such a program can be financed if all facilities are coordinated. The whole child is to be educated. "The ideal school will make the playground the very center of its life." The ideal "outdoor equipment is on the scale of a college or a wealthy private school which can provide spacious grounds and provision for every athletic sport."

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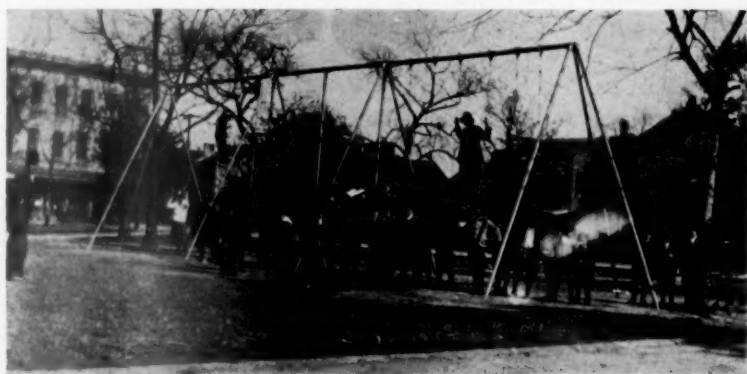
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BOOK REVIEWS

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By Mary A. Proudfoot. Published by Rand McNally & Co., New York. Price, fifty cents

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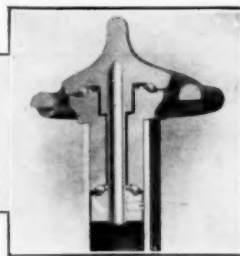
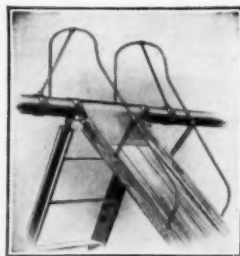
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By Charles Mulford Robinson. Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London. Price, \$2.50

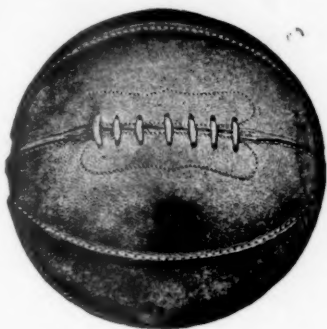
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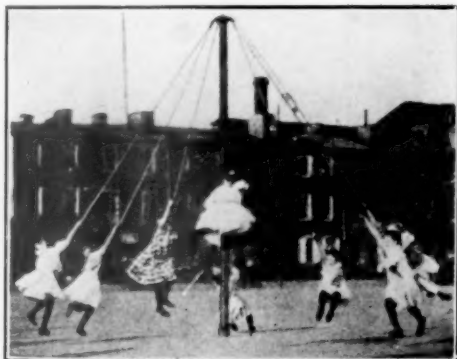
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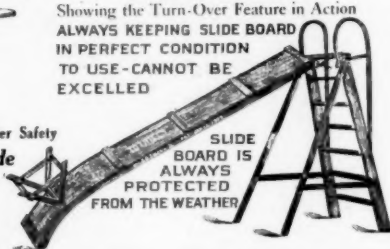
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Of THE PLAYGROUND published monthly at Cooperstown, N. Y. for April 1, 1917.

State of New York)
County of New York } ss

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared H. S. Braucher, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of THE PLAYGROUND and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

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Publisher, Playground and Recreation Association of America, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Editor, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Managing Editor, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City; Business Manager, H. S. Braucher, 1 Madison Ave., New York City.

2. That the owners are: (Give names and addresses of individual owners, or, if a corporation, give its name and the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of stock.)

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